

Words Which Are Confused as Part of the Name

Descriptive words are sometimes used with the name of an individual. In old records, the capitalization and punctuation cannot be relied on to indicate that the word is not part of the name. Be particularly careful when indexing records with Latin terms.

Descriptive words are not to be typed in the name fields:

- Bastard, meaning the child is illegitimate.
- Magister, meaning master, as in "Magister John Archibald."
- Mulier, meaning woman or sometimes wife, as in "Margaretha Smith Mulier."
- Parvulus, meaning very small, as in "Parvulus William Smith."
- Proles, meaning offspring or child, as in "Proles Petri Collins." The term "proles" represents the primary individual on the record, but the name is not given. The name fields would be blanked for the individual, and the name Petri Collins would be indexed in the father's name fields.
- Senex, meaning old man, as in "John Biddle Senex."
- Serva or Servus, meaning servant.
- Uxor, meaning wife.
- Vidua, meaning widow.
- De, meaning from or of, as in "Gulielmi Collins De Rowington." De Rowington is his residence and not part of the name.